heaven and earth, past, present and future, tell me in what is it woven, like warp and woof? "

" (4) Yajnavalkya said : " That of which they say that it is above the heavens, beneath the earth, embracing heaven and earth, past, present and future, that is woven like warp and woof, in the ether (akasa)/'

" (5) She said : "I bow to thee, 0 Yajnavalkya, who has solved me that question. Get thee ready for the second." Yajnavalkya said: " Ask, 0 Gargi."

(Verse 6 *and portion of 7 are inadvertent repetitions of verses* 3 *and* 4 *respectively).*

{c (7) She said: "In what then is ether woven like warp and woof?"

ct (8) He said : tt *0* Gargi, the Brahmanas call this *Akshara* (the Imperishable). It is neither coarse nor fine, neither short nor long, neither red (like fire) nor fluid (like water) ; it is without shadow, without darkness, without air, without ether, without attachment, without taste, without smell, without eyes, without ears, without speech, without mind, without light (vigour), without breath, without a mouth (or door), without measure, having no within and no without, it devours nothing and no one devours it."

" (9) By the command of that *Akshara* (the imperish- able), 0 Gargi, sun and moon stand apart.

By the command
of that *Akshara,* 0 Gargi, heaven and earth
stand apart.
By the command of that Akshara, 0 Gargi,
what are called
moments (nimesha), hours (muhurta),
days and nights,
half-months, months, seasons, years, all
stand apart. By
the command of that *Akshara, 0* Gargi,
some rivers flow to
the East from the white mountains, others
to the West, or to
any other quarter. By the command of that
Akshara,
0 Gargi, men praise those who give, the
gods follow the
sacrificer, the fathers the Darvi-offering.
<{ (10) Whosoever, 0 Gargi, without
knowing that
Akshara (the imperishable) offers
oblations in this world,